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Medical personnel. Before the Second World War, a communal or cantonal doctor was treating, on the average, 4,500 patients. The percentage of trained physicians was much higher in the cities (three doctors for every 1,000 people), especially in Budapest. This situation has improved little if any since the war. There is also a shortage of trained nurses. Government decrees require communities to employ one licensed midwife for every 900 inhabitants.

The instruction of ~~medical~~ doctors is very good in Hungary. The law of 1938, still enforced, requires health officers in the country to take refresher courses in general medical practice.

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In the villages the local doctor and pharmacist belong to the rural intelligentsia and are highly respected people. However, peasants often hesitate to go to the doctor in many cases of less serious illness, and they use instead popular remedies, such as herbs, potions, compresses, poultices, and the like or else, in scattered areas, rely on outright superstition for healing.

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Sanitation. One of the greatest health problems in the Hungarian villages is that of drinking water. Piped systems are practically non-existent. In many regions, only 100-200 meter wells could